

Episode 56K | October 25, 2023. Excerpts, Biden Climate Announcements & NYT Climate Newsletter

October 26, 2023. Excerpts, Biden Climate Announcements **Excerpts edited by RAWSEP for brevity and clarity and relationship to Residents Against Wood Smoke Emission Particulates Corporation, a non-profit organization** 1)Electrical Grid & Microgrids. Last week, as part of the President's Investing in America [agenda](#), the Biden-Harris Administration announced \$3.46 billion for 58 projects across 44 states to strengthen electric grid resilience and reliability across America. These transformative projects, which will all support the [President's Justice40 Initiative](#), will help bring more than 35 gigawatts of new renewable energy online, invest in 400 microgrids, and maintain and create good-paying union jobs with three out of four projects partnering with the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW)—helping deliver on the Biden-Harris Administration's ambitious climate agenda. Learn more about the Grid Resilience Innovation Partnership (GRIP) projects selected for award negotiations [here](#).

2)Tax incentive for Wind and Solar Projects. The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), U.S. Department of Treasury, and Internal Revenue Service (IRS) [announced](#) the opening of applications for the [Low-Income Communities Bonus Credit Program](#). This program, supported by the Inflation Reduction Act, addresses the need to expand access to cost-saving clean energy projects in underserved communities through a groundbreaking tax incentive for solar and wind projects across the country. The historic program supports the Biden-Harris Administration's Justice40 goals and represents the most significant tax incentive in U.S. history to promote clean energy investments in low-income communities, on Tribal Land, and within affordable housing. Learn more about the IRS Initial Guidance Establishing Program to Allocate Environmental Justice Solar and Wind Capacity Limitation Under Section 48(e) and access important Low-Income Communities Bonus Credit Program resources on the [DOE website](#).

3)Green Retrofit Program. In addition, the Biden-Harris Administration [announced](#) awarded of more than \$100 million from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) through the Green and Resilient Retrofit Program – funded by the Inflation Reduction Act – to help renovate the homes of more than 1,500 low-income families to be zero energy and climate resilient.

4)Green Proving Ground. Through the Green Proving Ground program, the U.S. General Services Administration (GSA), in collaboration with DOE, [announced](#) a new request for information (RFI) about technologies that can enable energy efficiency, electrification, and decarbonization in commercial buildings and contribute to a more efficient electric infrastructure. With \$30 million in funding from the Inflation Reduction Act, this RFI will result in more than triple the number of technologies in the program. For more information, visit [GSA's Green Proving Ground webpage](#).

This Week in Environmental News

#ICYMI (IN CASE YOU MISSED IT)

5)Affordable Home Energy Shot. Earlier this month the Biden-Harris Administration [announced](#) the launch of the Affordable Home Energy Shot™, a new initiative, from DOE focused on the research, development, and demonstration of clean energy solutions to decarbonize and deliver energy and cost savings for affordable homes. [The Affordable Home Energy Shot](#) will drive innovative clean energy solutions in the affordable housing sector that will reduce greenhouse gas emissions, make homes more resilient, and save residents money. To learn more, read the Affordable Home Energy Shot factsheet and visit the initiative's [website](#).

6)Subscribe to Newsletter. Keep reading for more environmental updates from the Biden-Harris Administration. If you were forwarded this email, or are not on our list yet, please sign up [here](#).

Resource Hub

7)[Invest.gov](#): Interactive map showing the historic public and private sector investments President Biden's Investing in America agenda is bringing to states and territories across America.

- 8) [Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Maps](#): Updated map reflecting the more than 20,000 projects and funding announced in communities across the United States.
- 9) [Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and Inflation Reduction Act Technical Assistance Guide](#): New guide highlighting programs that help communities navigate programs and resources that can help them deliver infrastructure, clean energy and climate resilience projects.
- 10) [Inflation Reduction Act Guidebook](#): This guidebook provides an overview of the clean energy, climate mitigation and resilience, agriculture, and conservation-related tax incentives and investment programs in President Biden’s Inflation Reduction Act.
- 11) [Direct Pay Through the Inflation Reduction Act](#): Find resources on the Inflation Reduction Act’s “elective pay” (often called “direct pay”) provisions, through which tax-exempt and governmental entities can take advantage of tax credits for building clean energy projects.
- 12) [Inflation Reduction Act Open Funding Opportunities](#): See a list of funding opportunities that are open for application, the deadline for applying, and relevant links.
- 13) [Grants.gov](#): Learn about current federal grant opportunities.
- 14) [Cleanenergy.gov](#): A one-stop shop for Inflation Reduction Act policy updates.
- [DOE Interactive Map](#): Interactive tool showcasing where clean energy investments are occurring across the United States thanks to President Biden’s Investing in America agenda
- 15) [Energy Savings Hub | Department of Energy](#): Access resources made possible by President Biden’s Investing in America plan, which will help lower your energy costs, make your home safer and more comfortable, and help the planet.
- 16) [Environmental Justice Scorecard](#): Find information about what federal agencies are doing to advance environmental justice in communities across America.

News Clips of the Week

- 17a) AP: [Biden names technology hubs for 32 states and Puerto Rico to help the industry and create jobs](#)
- 17b) Reuters: [Biden administration picks 31 regional tech hubs to spur US innovation](#)
- 17c) Boston Globe: [Biden administration announces 31 Tech Hubs, including three in New England](#)
- 17d) E&E News: [Team Biden hits the road to tout energy investments](#)
- 17e) AP News: [Biden announces \\$3.5B for projects nationwide to strengthen electric grid, bolster resilience](#)
- 17f) The Verge: [The US has new clean energy and efficiency programs for low-income housing](#)
- 17g) NY1: [HUD to fund clean energy renovations for 1,500 homes in low-income, tribal communities](#)
- 17h) Wood TV Michigan: [Kalamazoo senior apartments getting \\$3M in energy grants](#)
- 17i) WFAR North Carolina: [White House adviser says city's urban tree plans are critical](#)

18) Tweets of the Week

18a) [President Biden \(@POTUS\)](#)

Our nation’s history is etched in our people and in our lands. My Administration launched the American Climate Corps to train the next generation to protect and preserve that history.

Visit <http://WhiteHouse.gov/ClimateCorps>.

18b) [FACT SHEET: Biden-Harris Administration Announces 31 Regional Tech Hubs to Spur American Innovation, Strengthen Manufacturing, and Create Good-Paying Jobs in Every Region of the Country](#)

Today, President Biden and Secretary of Commerce Gina Raimondo will announce the designation of 31 communities across the country as Regional Innovation and Technology Hubs (Tech Hubs) through the Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration. These Tech Hubs will catalyze investment in technologies critical to economic growth, national security, and job creation, and will help communities across the country become centers of innovation critical to American competitiveness. The Tech Hubs program was authorized by the CHIPS and Science Act – signed by

President Biden in August 2022 – and is part of the President’s Bidenomics agenda to grow the economy from the middle out and bottom up.

18c) [FACT SHEET: Biden-Harris Administration Takes Action to Cut Energy Bills, Housing Costs and Climate Pollution](#)

Today, the Administration announced awards of more than \$100 million from the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) through the Inflation Reduction Act – the largest investment in clean energy and climate action ever – to help renovate the homes of more than 1,500 low-income families to be zero energy and climate resilient. These energy-saving renovations will demonstrate the potential to preserve quality, affordable housing in our communities by cutting energy waste down to zero, increasing resiliency to extreme weather events worsened by climate change, and lowering costs for families. All the investments will be made in affordable housing communities serving low-income families in alignment with President Biden’s Justice40 Initiative and the Biden-Harris Administration’s commitment to environmental justice. These investments will also preserve the long-term viability and affordability of our nation’s existing stock of affordable housing and advance fair housing by increasing housing options for communities.

18d) [Biden-Harris Administration Announces More Than \\$100 Million for Energy Efficiency and Climate Resilience Upgrades in 1,500 Low-Income Households](#)

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) announced today it is awarding \$103.4 million in new loans and grants to significantly renovate the homes of 1,500 low-income households to be zero energy and resilient at 16 HUD-Assisted Multifamily Housing properties under the Green and Resilient Retrofit Program (GRRP) as part of President Biden’s Investing in America agenda, a key pillar of Bidenomics.

End of Biden Newsletter excerpts for 10/26/2023.

The New York Times Climate Forward Newsletter. October 24, 2023. Photo of The ENGIE solar farm at the site of a former coal plant in Holyoke, Massachusetts.

Clean energy’s powerful momentum.

Excerpts edited by RAWSEP for brevity and clarity and relationship to Residents Against Wood Smoke Emission Particulates Corporation, a non-profit organization.

(Energy dollars to developing nations) Before the global climate summit in Dubai, countries are deadlocked on a “loss and damage” fund to help developing nations, (such as African nations) [Reuters reports](#).

(War affects climate efforts) The widening conflict in the Middle East threatens to fracture [efforts to slow down climate change](#).

(California climate policies revved up) Gov. Gavin Newsom of California is supercharging his state’s climate policies ahead of a possible [White House run in 2028](#).

(Carbon Capture Ditched) An oil giant quietly ditched the world’s biggest carbon capture plant, [Bloomberg reports](#). Nearly every day, there is confounding news to make us question whether the world is pushing hard enough to transition away from fossil fuels.

(Oil will peak in 7 years, but solar & wind & Heat Pumps projected to surge in demand) the International Energy Agency predicted that global demand for oil, natural gas and coal will peak in about seven years. Solar, wind, hydropower, electric vehicles and heat pumps are all projected to surge.

(Solar will dominate markets) A separate study that came out last week suggests the world may have reached “a global irreversible solar tipping point,” with ever-cheaper solar dominating electricity markets purely because of market forces, without any additional climate policies. the move toward solar is global: the study’s authors expect solar to be the cheapest source of electricity in almost all countries by 2027.

oil and gas demand would most likely plateau at slightly above today’s levels for the next three decades, expanding in developing countries and shrinking in advanced economies. Demand for coal, the dirtiest

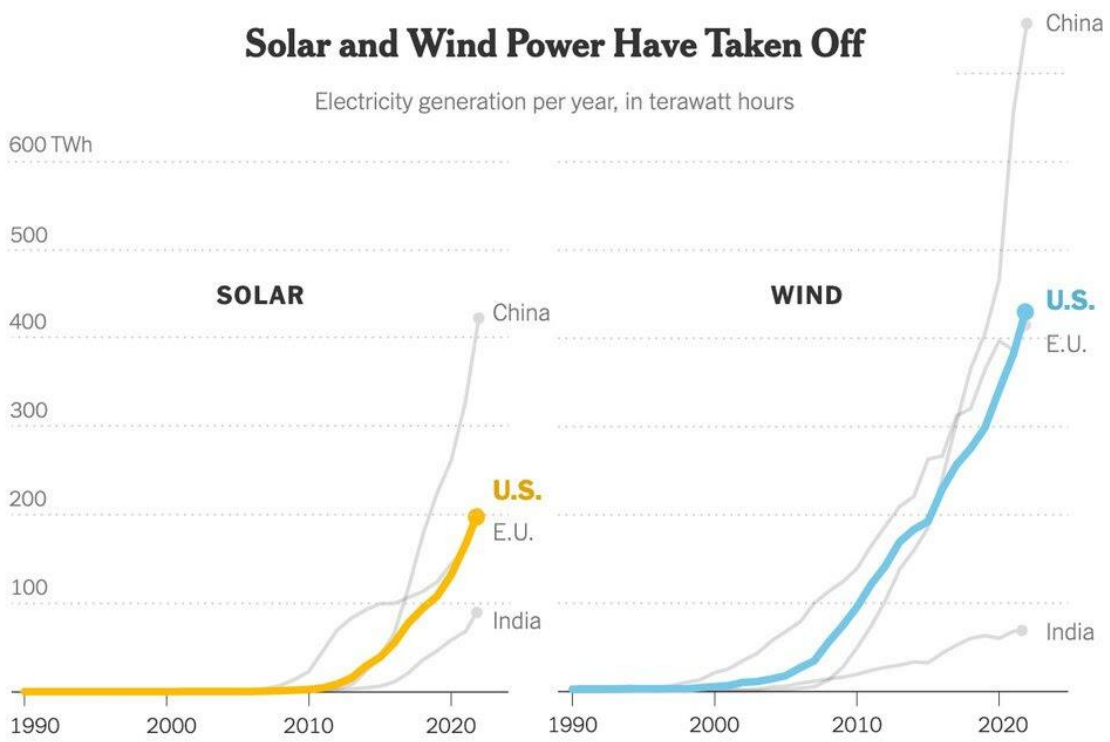
of fossil fuels, would start declining, though it might fluctuate year to year if, say, coal plants needed to run more often during heat waves or droughts. “The transition to clean energy is happening worldwide and it’s unstoppable,” said the executive director of the International Energy Agency. The cleanest fuel is the cheapest. Cost is the bedrock of the solar revolution. Between 2010 and 2020, the study found, the cost of solar cells fell by 15 percent each year. Those are staggering numbers.

“The pace of decline in price initially surprised many people,” (China and solar) Starting in the 2000s, China pumped billions of dollars into solar technology as it tried to reduce its dependence on foreign energy. The boom in production, and the ruthless competition and scientific innovation that followed, caused the price of panels to plummet, even as many companies were driven out of business. (California & rooftop solar) It was also around that time that California started to heavily subsidize rooftop solar. About a quarter of the state’s electricity now comes from solar. unsubsidized solar photovoltaic and onshore wind power are now about 48 percent cheaper than the next cheapest energy source, natural gas. “Add federal tax incentives designed to hasten development of more clean energy resources and the cost of solar and wind drop to zero,” states a report. (Big Oil will fight to retain its markets) The oil cartel OPEC has warned that the forecast from the I.E.A. could lead countries and companies to underinvest in oil and gas drilling. The resulting lack of supply could lead to “energy chaos,” the cartel said. It projects that global demand for oil and natural gas will keep rising until 2045.

Companies are adapting to new realities, most noticeably with a wave of consolidation with the Chevron-Hess deal, and the even bigger Exxon acquisition of Pioneer Energy this month. investors haven’t been pleased with European oil giants like BP and Shell that have, until recently, emphasized their efforts to reduce carbon emissions. The path ahead. The world is at a crossroads, said a lecturer at the University of Exeter and one of the authors of the solar tipping point study. Pulling in one direction are the countries and governments that want to increase fossil fuel production, which are reaping the vast profits that oil and gas still generate. Pulling the other way are the leaders, entrepreneurs, policymakers and activists who are urgently trying to move the world toward clean energy, empowered by the stunning drop in cost for solar and other clean energy technologies. The fossil fuel camp is betting that acquisitions like the Chevron-Hess deal and investments in new production will pay off in the long term. But the example of solar shows that market forces can be uniquely powerful in their own right. There is a lot of policy left to be written “we can repeat the success of solar in different sectors.”

Solar and Wind Power Have Taken Off

Electricity generation per year, in terawatt hours



Source: The Energy Institute's 2023 Statistical Review of World Energy • Note: Data reflects generation within country borders. • By The New York Times